

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A transportable container for sealingly enclosing substrates, the container comprising:
 - a) a box having an opening and receiving the substrates therein;
 - b) a removable closure member received by the box and capable of closing the box;and
 - c) a sealing gas introduction system temporarily having a source of a sealing gas to be introduced to purge an interior of the box,
wherein the sealing gas introduction system including: i) a vessel for holding the sealing gas previously; ii) a gas supply line for supplying the sealing gas inside the vessel into the interior of the box; and iii) a gas exhaustion line for exhausting a gas contained in the interior of the box, and
wherein the sealing gas introduction system is located within the closure member.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The container as recited in claim 1, wherein the sealing gas inside the vessel is stored in a compressed condition at a predetermined pressure.
4. (Previously Presented) A transportable container for sealingly enclosing substrates, the container comprising:
 - a) a box having an opening and receiving the substrates therein;
 - b) a removable closure member received by the box and capable of closing the box;and

c) a sealing gas introduction system temporarily having a source of a sealing gas to be introduced to purge an interior of the box,

wherein the sealing gas introduction system including: i) a vessel for holding the sealing gas previously; ii) a gas supply line for supplying the sealing gas inside the vessel into the interior of the box; and iii) a gas exhaustion line for exhausting a gas contained in the interior of the box, wherein the sealing gas introduction system is supplied with the sealing gas from a gas supply source outside the container and stores the sealing gas in the vessel when the closure member is detached from the box, and wherein the sealing gas introduction system introduces the sealing gas inside the vessel to the interior of the box when the closure member is attached to the box.

5. (Original) The container recited in claim 4, wherein the supply of the sealing gas to the sealing gas introduction system is started when the closure member is detached from the box, while the introduction of the sealing gas to the interior of the box is started when the closure member is attached to the box.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The container recited in claim 1, wherein the sealing gas introduction system is located on either of side walls, a top wall and a bottom wall of the box.

8. (Original) The container recited in claim 1, further comprising:

d) a sealed space defined by a contact surface of the box and a contact surface of the closure member when the closure member is attached to the box; and

e) a pressure control system for maintaining a pressure of a gas inside the sealed space lower than a pressure of a surrounding environment outside the container.

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9. (Original) The container recited in claim 1, wherein the sealing gas is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, helium and argon.

10. (Original) The container recited in claim 1, wherein the container is a SMIF (standard mechanical interface) apparatus.

11. (Original) The container recited in claim 1, wherein the box adapted to store a cassette, the cassette capable of holding the substrates.

12-20. (Canceled)